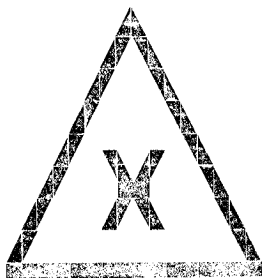


RITUAL OF THE
ORIENTAL ORDER
• OF •
HUMILITY.

I O M A



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LIST OF OFFICERS.

ROYAL GRAND NOMOTHETE.

ROYAL CHAPLAIN.

ROYAL SCRIBA.

ROYAL QUAESTOR.

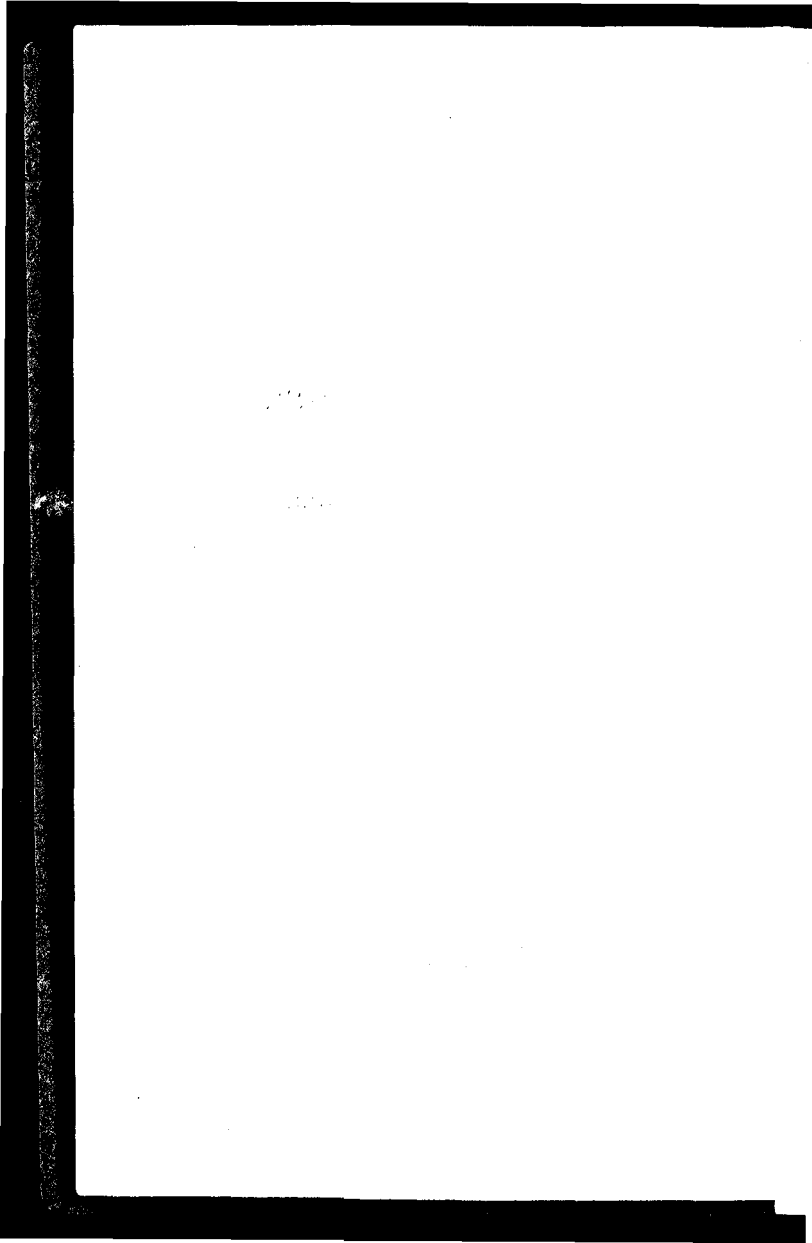
ROYAL GUIDE.

INSIDE GUARD.

OUTSIDE GUARD.



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H725
1714



ORDER OF BUSINESS.

CALL TO ORDER—ROLL CALL.


Reading minutes of last meeting.

Reading communications.

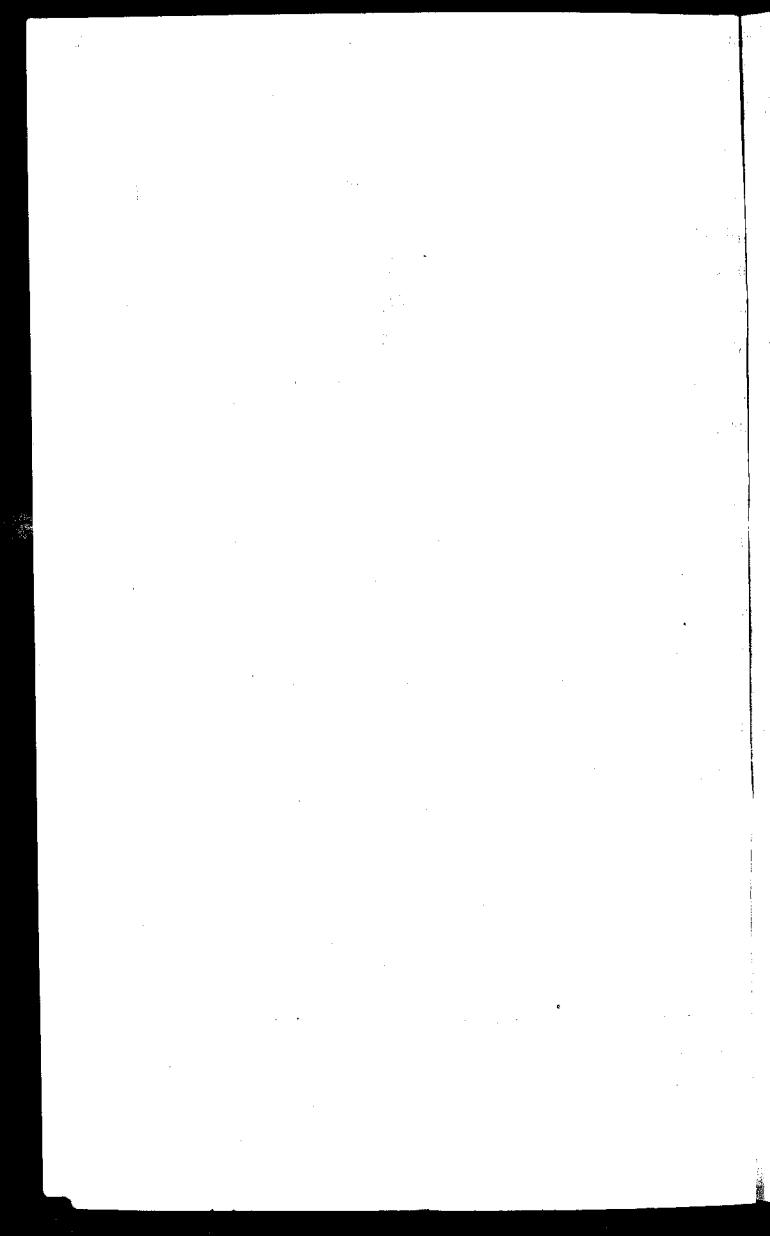
Proposition for Candidates.

Initiation of Candidates.

Receipts of the Evening closing.



ABILENE PRINTING COMPANY,
ABILENE, TEX.



ORIENTAL ORDER OF HUMILITY.

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INSIDE GUARD.—Most Royal Grand Nomothete,
there is an alarm at the outer door.

NOMOTHETE.—Attend to the alarm.

* * * *

INSIDE GUARD.—Most Royal Grand Nomothete,
there are candidates who seek admission to our most
noble and ancient order.

NOMOTHETE.—Are they properly attended with guides of the Brotherhood?

I. G.—They are, most noble Nomothete.

N.—Admit them.

[*Three raps of gavel.*]

* * * *

HEAD GUIDE.—You are now within the sacred circle of the Oriental Order of Humility.

ASSEMBLAGE.—Do nought, either by word, thought or deed, that shall mar the harmony of this sacred circle.

HEAD GUIDE.—Oh, Royal Grand Nomothete, most regal head of this, our ancient Oriental Order of Humility, I, here in the presence of this, our most august assemblage of the faithful, present to you these candidates, who, having answered all the questions propounded to them in a most satisfactory manner, and who still declare they are willing and anxious to learn of the benevolence, humility and fraternity emanating only from our most ancient, royal order, await further instructions.

NOMOTHETE.—Are you still willing to proceed?

CANDIDATES.—We are.

ASSEMBLAGE.—We bear witness.

All arise and repeat——

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His namesake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

Head Guide leads candidates around the room during singing of opening ode, which is Swanee River, all stopping in front of Nomothete.

ASSEMBLAGE.—Be faithful, be earnest, and discard all fear, for here you will meet friends and brothers.

[*One rap of gavel.*]

NOMOTHETE.—My friends, it gives me pleasure to meet you, and to greet you, in this our haven of rest, our quiet retreat from the noise and turmoil of the busy and ever active world. Here you will find friends, and after you are fully instructed in the sublime and, at times pathetic workings of our most ancient order, you will see none but brothers who will

gladly welcome you.

ASSEMBLAGE.—So mote it be.

NOM.—You see not now, owing to the blind which covers your eyes. This is emblematic of infant life, or the helplessness of any one individual, as compared to the efforts of many. After you have progressed a little further in our order, you will be relieved of this burden. You will now go with your worthy guides, knowing that all good members have traveled the same path, under the same conditions. [Candidates are here conducted to the Royal Chaplain.]

HEAD GUIDE.—Most Royal Chaplain, by instruction of our most Royal Grand Nomothete, I here present to you these candidates for further instruction.

CHAPLAIN.—My friends, I greet you and will do all in my power to aid you in this your most laudable undertaking. It is my duty and privilege to lead the thoughts of all to things above, and as a further instruction to you I will now pronounce the benediction of the Oriental Order of Humility:

[*Three raps of gavel.*]

* * *

BENEDICTION.

Oh friends and brethren, here are these, who in their seeming helplessness, ask us for our support and brotherly love. Let us then, O my brethren, by our warm and touching welcome, so impress them that they will not regret that they are one of us. My friends, listen to the voice of wisdom, and, in all thy dealings with thy fellow man, be guided by its dictates, and let judgment and consideration accompany your every act. I now pronounce the benediction of the Oriental Order of Humility upon you and wish you God speed and safe conduct. You will now go with your worthy guides to the Royal Questor, who will further instruct you in our order.

[*One rap of gavel.*]

HEAD GUIDE.—Most Royal Questor, I here present to you these candidates, who seek further instruction in our sublime order.

ROYAL QUESTOR.—My friends it is my duty to inform you as to the origin of our order. It has been handed down by tradition, through the ages, from one member to all; that one day Xerxes, while walking through his domain, suddenly came upon a number

of his faithful subjects who instantly fell upon their knees and assumed the position of humility, which position you will now be required to assume. [Guides instruct candidates how to assume position of humility.]

NOMOTHETE.—Royal Chaplain assisted by the assemblage will give these waiting candidates their last parting admonition.

[*Three raps of gavel.*]

* * * *

The position of humility was in that time and day the general mode of salutation from an inferior to a superior. When Xerxes had come to where these faithful subjects were, being touched with their fidelity, he commanded them to arise, which they refused to do until he had passed. This so impressed him that he asked the reason of their refusal. Whereupon they informed him that they belonged to an order of very ancient date, which, among other things, required that the members should always assume the position of humility when met by a superior and retain it until the superior had passed. Xerxes was so pleased by this incident that he asked to become a member of

their order. They informed him that he must first assume the position of humility, which he did. The lesson we are to learn from this episode is that even they who occupy the most exalted positions, as well as those in the humbler walks of life, may profit by practicing humility. For it has been recorded that, from that time on, the great Xerxes was less arrogant and noticably more affable. You will now arise and the guides will remove from your eyes the bandages.

ASSEMBLAGE.—See and know your friends, and from this time on work in unison with them.

ROYAL Q.—The removing of the bandages from your eyes is emblematic of the acquisition of wisdom. The royal guides will now conduct you to the Royal Grand Nomothete for further instruction. [*One rap of gavel.*]

ROYAL GUIDE.—Most Royal Grand Nomothete these candidates seek further instruction in the mysteries of our order.

ROYAL NOM.—You have now passed the full circuit of our lodge room, and will soon be declared full members of our Noble and Benevolent Ancient Order. It now becomes my duty to administer to you the

oath of our sublime order: (Right hands up.) Do you obligate yourselves to conform to all the rules and usages of our most ancient and only real benevolent order? Do you obligate yourselves to do all in your power to advance the interests of our order, to reveal none of its secrets, and to always be amiable and just to the outside world, and peaceful, kind and loving to all brothers, and to always obey all reasonable commands of the Royal Grand Nomothete?

ANS. CANDIDATES.—We do.

ASSEMBLAGE.—We are the sole witnesses of this your oath.

NOM.—The guides will now conduct the candidates to the Royal Scriba who will place their names upon the sacred rolls, give them the grip, pass-word and mystic letters. [R. Scriba gives pass-word, etc., and repeats:

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;

Weep, and you weep alone.

For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,

But has trouble enough of its own,

Sing and the hills will answer;

Sigh, it is lost on the air:

The echoes resound from a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care,
Rejoice, and men will seek you;
Grieve, and they turn and go;
They want full measure of all your pleasure,
But they do not heed your woe.
Be glad and your friends are many;
Be sad and you lose them all.
There are none to decline your nectared wine,
But alone you must drink life's gall.
Feast, and your halls are crowded;
Fast, and the world goes by:
Succeed and give and it helps you live,
But no man can help you die.
There is room in the halls of pleasure,
For a large and lordly train;
But one by one we must all file on,
Through the narrow isle of pain.

SCRIBA.—The candidates march around the room
while assemblage sings welcoming ode.

[Candidates stop before Nomothete.]

[*Three raps of the gavel.*]

NOM.—The candidates having now nearly com-

pleted their novitiate, all members present will join in welcoming the candidates by giving them the "three times five" of our order.

THREE-TIMES-FIVE: NOM.—Be faithful, be earnest, be considerate, be slow to anger, be forgiving.

R. G. N.

The candidates will now assume the position of humility for closing work.

Oh why should the spirit of mortal be proud?
Like a swift fleeting meteor, a fast flying cloud,
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave
Man passeth from life to his rest in the grave.
The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade,
Be scattered around and together be laid;
And the young and the old, and the low and the high,
Shall moulder to dust and together shall lie.
The infant a mother attended and loved;
The mother that infants affection who proved.
The husband that mother and infant who blessed—

Each, all, are away to their dwelling of rest.

The maid on whose cheek, on whose brow in whose
eye,

Shone beauty and pleasure—her triumphs are by;
And the memory of those who loved her and
praised

Are alike from the minds of the living erased.

The hand of the king that the scepter hath born;

The brow of the priest that the mitre hath worn;

The eye of the sage and the heart of the brave

Are hidden and lost in the depth of the grave.

The peasant whose lot was to sow and to reap;

The herdsman who climbed with his goats up the
steep;

The beggar who wandered in search of his bread,

Have faded away like the grass that we tread.

The saint who enjoyed the communion of heaven;

The sinner who dared to remain unforgiven;

The wise and the foolish, the guilty and just,

Have quietly mingled their bones in the dust.

So the multitudes go like the flowers or the weed

That withers away to let others succeed;

So the multitudes come, even those we behold,

To repeat every tale that has often been told.

For we are the same our fathers have been;

We see the same sights our fathers have seen;

We drink the same stream, and view the same sun,

And run the same course our fathers have run.

The thoughts we are thinking our fathers would
think;

From the death we are shrinking our fathers would
shrink.

To the life we are clinging they also would cling;

But it speeds for us all, like a bird on the wing.

They loved, but the story we cannot unfold;

They scorned, but the heart of the haughty is cold;

They grieved, but no wail from their slumbers will
come;

They joyed, but the tongue of their gladness is
dumb.

They died! aye they died; and we things that are
now,

Who walk on the turf that lies over their brow,

Who make in their dwelling a transient abode,

Meet the things that they meet on their pilgrimage
road.

Yea, hope and despondency, pleasure and pain,
We mingle together in sunshine and rain;
And the smiles and the tears, the song and the
dirge.

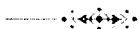
Still follow each other, like surge upon surge.

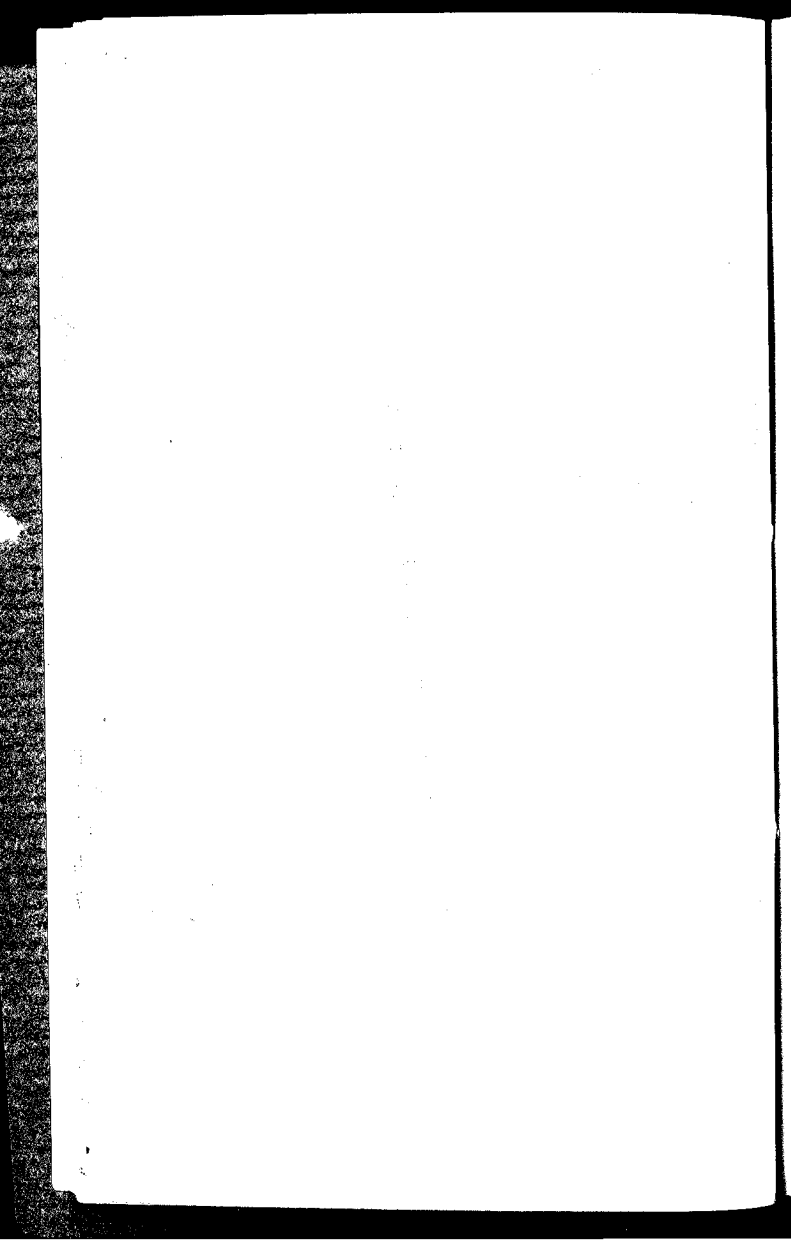
'Tis the wink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a
breath.

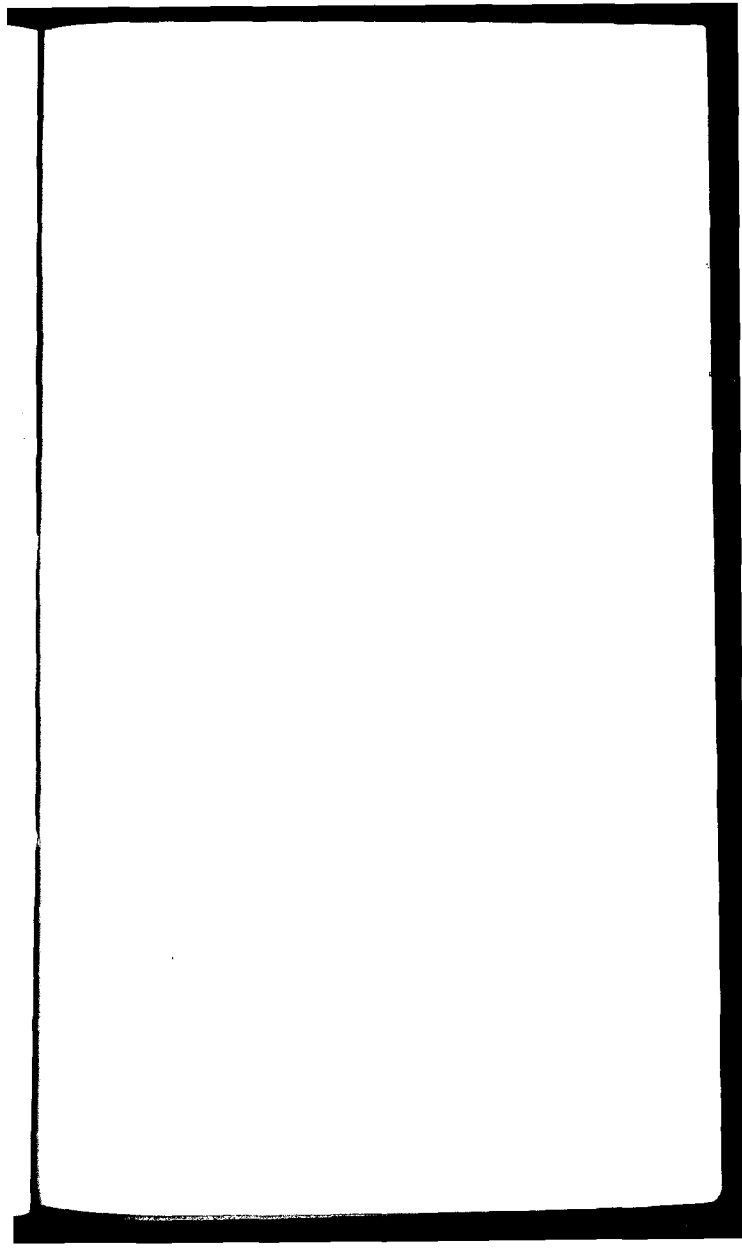
From the blossom of health to the paleness of
death

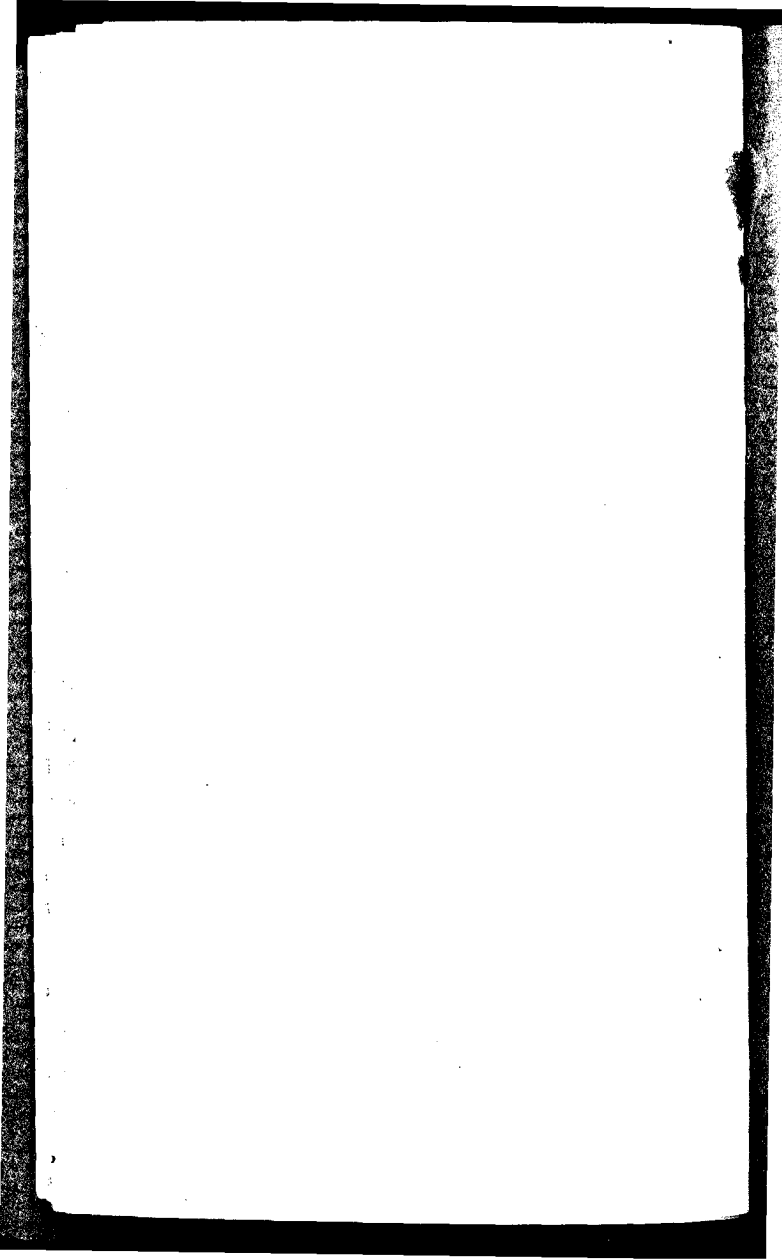
From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud,
Oh! why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

You will now repeat the following after me: Oh
my friends and brothers—help us to keep the path
clear in front of us—lest we in our haste—shall
strike some obstacle—and help us O brethren—
to act and move promptly—lest in tarrying—we may
be stuck.









QUESTIONS

TO BE PROPOUNDED TO CANDIDATES.

Are you eighteen years of age?

Are you a married man?

Do you believe in Taxes?

Have you had the Grippe?

Did you ever see a live President?

Do you think it injurious to bathe?

Can you keep a secret?

Will you do it?

Have you got three dollars in you pants?

Please hand it over to me!

